

# Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104321

## Details

Known as	Abbey Presbyterian Church Monkstown
Status	Received
Registered	2016-08-04
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	74 Lislainan Ballycarry Carrickfergus BT38 9gz BT38 9GZ
Phone	02893373585
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@abbeypresbyterian.org.uk">contact@abbeypresbyterian.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.abbeypresbyterian.org.uk">www.abbeypresbyterian.org.uk</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£186,130	£221,655	£0	2

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joanne Stewart		
Jonny		
Miss Deborah Mckelvey		
Mr Anthony John Hacking		
Mr David Stewart		
Mr Douglas Ross		
Mr Geoffrey Marks		
Mr Stephen Acheson		
Mr Witheld Witheld		
Mrs Barbara Anne Greer		
Mrs Fiona Elizabeth Cochrane		
Mrs Sharon Allwell		
Mrs Thelma Coffey		
Rev Alan Carson		

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Accounts

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**ABBAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONKSTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Independent Examiner's Report  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104321)**

## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: ... Roy Eakin

Occupation ... Retired Bank Official

Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland

... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim BT38 8XH

Date: ... 07<sup>th</sup> March 2025



**ABBAY MONKSTOWN CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104321)**

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity (Receipts and Payments Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	101456	40293	0	141749	141651
Charitable activities	3	842	1115	0	1957	1904
Other trading activities	4	1422	0	0	1422	2220
Investment Income	5	1703	0	0	1703	1872
Other	6	0	17450	0	17450	23695
Organisations		0	21849	0	21849	30150
Sale of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loans Received		0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>105423</b>	<b>80707</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186130</b>	<b>201492</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	457	0	0	457	434
Charitable activities	8	133097	52958	0	186055	200877
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other	9	0	1425	0	1425	4552
Organisations		0	23718	0	23718	20411
Purchase of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loan Repayments		0	10000	0	10000	10000
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>133554</b>	<b>88101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>221655</b>	<b>236274</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<b>-28131</b>	<b>-7394</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-35525</b>	<b>-34782</b>
Transfers between funds		4500	-4500	0	0	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>-23631</b>	<b>-11894</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-35525</b>	<b>-34782</b>
Funds brought forward		83980	84759	0	168739	203521
Funds carried forward	12	60349	72865	0	133214	168739

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	83980	84759	0	168739	203521
Net movement in funds	-23631	-11894	0	-35525	-34782
Bank and Cash at end of year	60349	72865	0	133214	168739
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Ulster Bank Current Account				113384	145355
Co-operative Bank Account				2185	3870
Cash in hand - Organisations				251	579
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				17394	18935
			Total	133214	168739
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets - Note 10					
Church Premises					
Fixtures and Fittings					
Vehicles					
Investments - Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				19000	15000
Other assets					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans				7500	17500
Other liabilities					

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 17th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Name Fiona Cochrane

Name Douglas Ross

Date 17th March 2025

Date 17th March 2025

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2024**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Financial Statements**

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**Fund Accounting**

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

**2 Donations and Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded givings	79220	32173		111393	114868
Loose collections	3788	0		3788	4253
Donations & gifts	639	2644		3283	6178
Gift Aid	17809	5476		23285	16352
Legacies & bequests	0	0		0	0
	<b>101456</b>	<b>40293</b>		<b>141749</b>	<b>141651</b>

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**3 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from publications	842	0	0	842	699
Flower Ministry	0	1115	0	1115	1205
	842	1115	0	1957	1904

**4 Other Trading Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Car park income	1400	0	0	1400	2200
NIE line	22	0	0	22	20
	1422	0	0	1422	2220

**5 Investment Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	1703	0	0	1703	1872
General Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	1703	0	0	1703	1872

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**6 Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Heat & Light (Donations)	0	4500	0	4500	2480
Grant - CMI	0	7500	0	7500	10000
Prayer Retreat	0	450	0	450	0
Grant - Urban Mission Trust	0	5000	0	5000	10000
Retirement presentation	0	0	0	0	1215
	0	17450	0	17450	23695

**7 Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	457	0	0	457	434
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	457	0	0	457	434

**8 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	20756	0	0	20756	16527
Presbytery fees	853	0	0	853	668
Ministry and support staff costs	71074	12500	0	83574	91461
Congregational running expenses	39352	34149	0	73501	66738
Mission Resource & Training	812	0	0	812	1554
Donations to Missions and Charities	0	16309	0	16309	23429
Governance costs	250	0	0	250	500
	133097	62958	0	196055	200877

**Abbey Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**9 Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowmen t Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Retirement presentation		0	0	0	1215
Flower Ministry	0	785	0	785	897
A Carson (transfer from Special funds)	0	0	0	0	1440
Sunday School account from Special Funds	0	0	0	0	1000
Prayer Retreat	0	640	0	640	0
	0				
	0	1425	0	1425	4552

**10 Fixed Assets**

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 99 - 101 Monkstown Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim BT37 OLG, the Manse occupied by our Minister and his family situated at 67 Mount Pleasant Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 ONQ and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have a combined insurance value of £3,877,370 at last renewal date of 31 October 2024.

**11 Investments**

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2024	2023
	£	£
General Investment Fund at market valuation	0	0
Property		
Other investments		
	0	0

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2024**

**12 Fund Balances**

	<b>Balance at start</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at end</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	83980	105423	133554	-28131	4500	60349
	0	0	0	0		0
	83980	105423	133554	-28131	4500	60349
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Maintenance of Property	40724	20501	34149	-13648	0	27076
United Appeal	0	0	12069	-12069	12069	0
General Mission Fund	22557	17137	0	17137	-14801	24893
Presbyterian Children's Society	0	103	0	103	0	103
Tear Fund	0	768	1000	-232	232	0
Moderator's Appeal	30	0	0	0	0	30
Release International	0	40	500	-460	460	0
Benevolent	272	705	200	505	0	777
Tullamore PCI	0	0	500	-500	500	0
Christmas Local Mission	35	0	35	-35	0	0
Spark Newtownabbey	0	0	250	-250	250	0
LIFT	0	0	100	-100	100	0
Prayer Retreat	0	450	640	-190	190	0
Hollybank PS (local mission coffee)	0	55	55	0	0	0
Local Mission	0	100	100	0	0	0
Hands of Fellowship	0	500	500	0	0	0
MVI	0	0	500	-500	500	0
Scripture Union	0	0	500	-500	500	0
Student Bursary Fund	0	379	0	379	0	379
Others	319	0	0	0	0	319
Organisations	19514	21849	23718	-1869	0	17645
Heat & Light	0	4500	0	4500	-4500	0
Bequest	1000	0	0	0	0	1000
Grants - Evangelist	0	12500	12500	0	0	0
Flower Ministry	308	1120	785	335	0	643
	84759	80707	88101	-7394	-4500	72865
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
General Investment Fund	0					0
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>168739</b>	<b>186130</b>	<b>221655</b>	<b>-35525</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>133214</b>

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Accounts

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**  
**ANNUAL STATISTICAL RETURN**

Enter Losses and Overdrawn Balances as negative figures e.g -1,234, negative figures will appear in brackets

**OPTIONAL SECTION - SUMMARY OF FUNDS**

	NAME OF FUND	Income	Transfers In	Expenditure	Transfers Out	Surplus (Deficit)	Gains (Losses)	Fund Balance at Start (See Note)	Fund Balance at End
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>									
3.01	General Fund	100,471	2,480	128,845	0	(25,894)	0	109,874	83,980
3.02						0			0
3.03						0			0
3.04	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	100,471	2,480	128,845	0	-25,894	0	109,874	83,980
<b>RESTRICTED CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY FUNDS</b>									
3.05	Renovation Fund					0			0
3.06	Property/Building Fund	24,478	1,022	36,138	0	(10,638)	0	51,362	40,724
3.07	<b>Total Property</b>	24,478	1,022	36,138	0	(10,638)	0	51,362	40,724
<b>RESTRICTED CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONS AND CHARITIES FUND</b>									
3.08	United Appeal	0	4,500	4,500	0	0	0	0	0
3.09	General Missions Fund	17,584	0	0	16,775	809	0	21,748	22,557
3.10	Presb Children's Society	334	76	1,620	0	(1,210)	0	1,210	0
3.11	Tear Fund	970	530	2,333	0	(833)	0	833	0
3.12	Chirstian Aid	20	179	241	0	(42)	0	42	0
3.13	Food Bank	0	0	460	0	(460)	0	460	0
3.14	Moderators Appeal	30	0	0	0	30	0	0	30
3.15	SAT 7	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0
3.16	LIFT	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0
3.17	Release International	60	470	530		0	0	0	0
3.18	Benevolent	246	0	0	0	246	0	26	272
3.19	Tullamore PCI	2,178	1,590	3,768	0	0	0	0	0
3.20	Christmas Local Mission	35	0	0	0	35	0	0	35
3.21	Ballyclare Male Voice Choir	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0
3.22	Spark Newtownabbey	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0
3.23	West Belfast Special Ministr	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0
3.24	Reid Family	0	800	800	0	0	0	0	0
3.25	Open Doors	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
3.26	Thrive Newtownabbey	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0
3.27	Hungarian Reformed Church	0	629	629	0	0	0	0	0
3.28	<b>Total Mission &amp; Charity</b>	21,457	12,174	18,281	16,775	-1,425	0	24,319	22,894
<b>OTHER RESTRICTED CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS</b>									
3.29	Bequest	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
3.30	Fringe Youth/Big Weekend	0	0	0	399	(399)	0	399	0
3.31	Local Miss (2022 Gift Trans	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
3.32	Others/Retire/Flower	2,456	0	2,260	0	196	0	431	627
3.33	Special Funds	0	0	2,440	1,022	(3,462)	0	3,462	0
3.34	Heat & Light	2,480	0	0	2,480	0	0	0	0
3.35	Grants - Evangelist	20,000	0	22,899	0	(2,899)	0	2,899	0
3.36	<b>Total Other Restricted</b>	24,936	5,000	32,599	3,901	-6,564	0	8,191	1,627

**SECTION 3 - SUMMARY OF FUNDS**

figures will appear in brackets

	NAME OF FUND	Income	Transfers		Expenditure	Transfers	Surplus (Deficit)	Gains (Losses)	Fund Balance at Start (See Note)	Fund Balance at End
			In	Out						
<b>RESTRICTED ORGANISATIONAL FUNDS</b>										
3.37							0			0
3.38							0			0
3.39							0			0
3.40	Boys Brigade	3,731	0	2,621	0	1,110	0	3,278	4,388	
3.41	Girls Brigade	5,355	0	2,912	0	2,443	0	2,230	4,673	
3.42	Indoor Bowling	628	0	620	0	8	0	668	676	
3.43	PW	2,099	0	1,942	0	157	0	679	836	
3.44	Sunday School	1,000	0	76	0	924	0	93	1,017	
3.45	Abbey Tots	1,213	0	1,022	0	191	0	523	714	
3.46	Hands of Fellowship	1,400	0	581	0	819	0	232	1,051	
3.47	Youth Fellowship	1,006	0	477	0	529	0	198	727	
3.48	Local Mission (was Oasis)	13,718	0	10,160	0	3,558	0	1,874	5,432	
3.49						0			0	
3.50						0			0	
3.51						0			0	
3.52						0			0	
3.53						0			0	
3.54						0			0	
3.55						0			0	
3.56						0			0	
3.57						0			0	
3.58						0			0	
3.59						0			0	
3.60						0			0	
3.61						0			0	
3.62	<b>Total Organisational</b>	30,150	0	20,411	0	9,739	0	9,775	19,514	
3.63	<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	101,021	18,196	107,429	20,676	(8,888)	0	93,647	84,759	
<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>										
3.64						0			0	
3.65						0			0	
3.66						0			0	
3.67						0			0	
3.68						0			0	
3.69	<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3.70	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	201,492	20,676	236,274	20,676	(34,782)	0	203,521	168,739	

MUST AGREE TO

Transfers  
Out

Transfers  
In

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Annual report

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ABBEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONKSTOWN

CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
IRELAND

Trustees Annual Report for the year  
ended 31 December 2023

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104321)

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ABBEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONKSTOWN CONGREGATION OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

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## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The church building is located at 99-101 Monkstown Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 0LG.

Abbey Presbyterian Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland with registration number NIC104321.

## CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were:

Alan Carson

Thelma Coffey

Tony Hacking

Deborah McKelvey

Geoffrey Marks

Douglas Ross

Anne Greer

Fiona Cochrane

Jonathan Harkness

Joanne Stewart

#### PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

Alan Carson

Clerk of Session

Deborah McKelvey

Treasurer

Eleanor Pauley

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Name: Roy Eakin

Address: 18, Farm Lodge Road, Upper Road, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, BT38 8XH

## BANKERS

Ulster bank

The Co-operative bank

## STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

### The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Sessions has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held 7 times each year or as appropriate.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be

called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

### Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown, congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the North Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation.

### The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

### DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown, congregation of the Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purposes is by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which:

- is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others; - is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible; - is relevant to people of this time and place.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- A Covenant Community: where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward him and toward one another

- An Intergenerational Community: where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.

- An Outward looking Community: where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.

-An open church, open to God, to each other, to our community-and open to new things.

- As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

#### ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lords Supper. The congregation has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Groups
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Bowling Club
- Girls Brigade
- Boys Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Coffee morning weekly with lunch also weekly
- Women and Mens Ministries

During 2023 Sunday worship continued each week with organisations running a full and varied programme.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11am. On alternate Wednesday evenings there is a gathering together

for a time of prayer. On the first Sunday of each month prayer ministry is offered following the morning service of worship, there is also a prayer meeting prior to the service on the foirst Sunday of each month.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God s gift of love and companionship celebrating a wedding of 2 young people one of whom had grown up in the church. We also gave thanks for faithful service and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

## Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister, elders or by one of the congregations pastoral visitors.

## Mission and outreach

Session members are responsible for Local Mission and Overseas Mission and have formed very active sub-groups. We also have Men and Womens Ministries who arrange special programmes which are advertised and congregation members give personal invitations to family, friends and neighbours. The congregation supports a local foodbank.

The Local Mission Committee continued to host the Wednesday morning coffee gatherings offering tea/coffee, scones and a chat to anyone who wished to come along. The Friday lunch gatherings also continued with people coming together for soup and fellowship, both the lunch and coffee mornings are open to all across church and community, the lunch is supported by the local Tesco store who donate bread for us to enjoy on these occasions. A new initiative commenced in September 2023 as any monetary donations received during the coffee morning on the 4th Wednesday of each month are donated to a local charity. A visit of every household in a new housing development within the church boundary was undertaken by the Minister and Community Evangelist, a small gift was given to each home alongside a welcome to be a part of the church.

We were fortunate to have a PCI Impact Team join with us for a Holiday Bible Club in July 2023, this was well attended. We also assisted with SPARK Newtownabbey which took place in August 2023.

Community Evangelist Michaela Tuccillo, has continued to assist the congregation in reaching beyond the church building to those in the local community with many links formed across the area. The congregation have worked alongside this staff member to visit door to door, befriend and welcome new people to the church, we have welcomed a few new members following the relationships built by Michaela as she gets alongside people within the community.

The Global Mission Committee continued to support any from the congregation who travelled to any other countries on mission trips. As well as this support a partnership with the Presbyterian church in Tullamore continued with support from our members for their Holiday Bible Club as well as a group travelling to Tullamore to provide some much needed practical support to the congregation there as they addressed issues with buildings and gardens.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assist with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to special appeals.

#### Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and / or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

#### General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June 2023.

## Organisations

### Sunday

Creche meets during the morning church service for pre-school children to attend with a rota of volunteers. There is a wide range of age appropriate toys for them to play with.

Sunday School/Children's Church meets during the church service with identified leaders and Sunday School teachers. The children are primary school age and engage in bible stories and activities.

The young people meet during one service per month, this is preceded by a youth breakfast. There are also outings planned for the young people with all being welcome to attend.

Drop In meets on a Sunday evening for periods across the year. This meeting is held for the local teenagers some of whom used to gather around the church building on a Sunday evening. These young people are largely unchurched, coming into the building is a new experience for most of them. Activities include football, pool, baking and there is a very willing team of helpers led by Michaela Tuccillo who are available to chat with those who attend. An epilogue at the close of the evening takes place with those wanting to stay for this remaining to hear something of the love God has for them. This meeting is surrounded by prayer with members of the Prayer Committee meeting to pray for the young people who gather during the time of the Drop In meeting. We have seen how prayer changes things and have seen encouraging changes with some of the behaviours of the young people.

### Monday

Indoor Bowling meets during the winter months. The team in Abbey participated in various competitions.

In the summer, there is a ladies walking group on Monday evenings followed by refreshment and an epilogue.

Tuesday

Girls Brigade (GB) caters for children between the ages of 3 and 18. Badgework and the GB scripture course were amongst activities.

Wednesday

Coffee morning as described earlier.

Presbyterian Women s (PW) is a fellowship for the ladies in Abbey, to support the work of missionaries overseas, and deaconesses in Ireland, while also trying to reach the women on our doorstep. Meetings were less frequent across 2023 given some leadership challenges however we continue to have a very dedicated group of women attending when they can. Abbey PW supports financially and prayerfully the work of missionaries and deaconesses as well as worthy charities and also gives generously to the work of mission in Abbey and the running costs of the church.

Thursday

Abbey Tots, Mother and Toddler group, catered for toddlers and their parents/grandparents/childminders. There is a range of activities including ride on toys, soft play area for babies, shop, kitchen, cars, trains, books, carpentry, dolls house, dolls and prams, slide, seesaw and table top activities. There is an optional time for singing and playing usual activities. A team of caterers serves tea, coffee, toast, fruit and drinks.

Boys Brigade (BB) had some interesting badgework classes including cooking and baking, awareness of environmental issues. The boys are divided into Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section.

Friday

Lunch meetings as outlined earlier.

### Community

A local youth football team use the Sports Hall. Abbey Community College also uses the Sports Hall on a regular basis. The buildings have been used by THRIVE and also the local Boxing club and school when needed.

### Men's Ministry.

A few varied activities are planned as part of the ministry and outreach to men. Food is always involved. Our hope and prayer is that through these events relationships may continue to be built up or new ones established and more outsiders be drawn in to meet others and hear about how to meet Jesus.

### Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching.

In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which

pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregations main source of income is members contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering.

The income and expenses of the Abbey and its organisations are reflected in the financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregations total income does not exceed 250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation s transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

*Joanne Deenan*

*Anne Greer*

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: ... Roy Eakin  
Occupation ... Retired Bank Official  
Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland  
... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim BT38 8XH  
Date: ... 14th March 2024

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Accounts

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**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Statement of Financial Activity ( Receipts and Payments Account )**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	122612	48585	0	171197	200305
Charitable activities	3	1260	0	0	1260	1996
Other trading activities	4	1200	0	0	1200	0
Investment Income	5	316	0	0	316	101
Other	6	0	12436	0	12436	0
Organisations		0	10826	0	10826	9143
Sale of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Sale of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loans Received		0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts		125388	71847	0	197235	211545
<b>Payments</b>						
Raising funds	7	386	0	0	386	0
Charitable activities	8	100798	39520	0	140318	104612
Investment costs		0	0	0	0	0
Other	9	0	0	0	0	0
Organisations		0	14072	0	14072	5002
Purchase of Investments		0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets		0	0	0	0	0
Loan Repayments		0	10000	0	10000	10000
Total Payments		101184	63592	0	164776	119614
Net receipts / (payments)		24204	8255	0	32459	91931
Transfers between funds		3269	-3269	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		27473	4986	0	32459	91931
Funds brought forward		82401	88661	0	171062	79131
Funds carried forward	12	109874	93647	0	203521	171062

0

## Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>					
Bank and Cash at start of year	82401	88661	0	171062	79131
Net movement in funds	27473	4986	0	32459	91931
Bank and Cash at end of year	109874	93647	0	203521	171062
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>					
Ulster Bank Current Account				187333	148441
Co-operative Bank Account				6413	9600
Cash in hand - Organisations				8	0
Bank Current Accounts - Organisations				9767	13021
			Total	203521	171062
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Fixed Assets - Note 10					
Church Premises					
Fixtures and Fittings					
Vehicles					
Investments - Note 11					
Gift Aid receivable on donations				20000	20500
Other assets					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loans				27500	37500
Other liabilities					

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20/03/2023 and signed on its behalf by

Name Joanne Stewart

Name Anne Greer

Date 20-Mar-23

Date 20-Mar-23

## Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

### Notes to the accounts - 31 December 2022

#### 1 Accounting Policies

##### Basis of Financial Statements

As the total income of the congregation is less than £250,000 the congregation have elected in accordance with the provisions in The Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations) (Northern Ireland) 2015 to prepare its accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

##### Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the congregation's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific congregational activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the congregation's general purposes. Designated funds are general funds set aside by the congregation for use in the future.

#### 2 Donations and Legacies

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Recorded givings	73817	36876		110693	116661
Loose collections	3783	0		3783	2074
Donations and gifts	17769	2738		20507	2646
Gift Aid	18243	7971		26214	6448
Legacies and bequests	9000	1000		10000	72476
	122612	48585		171197	200305

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2022**

**3 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from publications	960	0	0	960	0
Fees from weddings and funerals	0	0	0	0	0
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
HMRC - Job Retention Scheme	0	0	0	0	1996
Grants - Pres Children's Soc	300	0	0	300	0
	1260	0	0	1260	1996

**4 Other Trading Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Car park income	1200	0	0	1200	0
Trading income	0	0	0	0	0
	1200	0	0	1200	0

**5 Investment Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deposit interest	316	0	0	316	101
General Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Rents investment properties	0	0	0	0	0
Other investment income	0	0	0	0	0
	316	0	0	316	101

**Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

**Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2022**

**6 Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Heat & Light	0	3269	0	3269	0
Grant - CMI	0	4167	0	4167	0
Grant - North Belfast Presbytery		5000			
	0	12436	0	7436	0

**7 Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
FWO envelopes	386	0	0	386	0
Fundraising events	0	0	0	0	0
	386	0	0	386	0

**8 Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Assembly Assessments	16367	0	0	16367	17184
Presbytery fees	784	0	0	784	769
Ministry and support staff costs	49830	6268	0	56098	47367
Congregational running expenses	30944	20050	0	50994	25627
Mission Resource & Training	2723			2723	
Donations to Missions and Charities	0	13202	0	13202	13665
Governance costs	150	0	0	150	0
	100798	39520	0	140318	104612

## Abbey Presbyterian Church - a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

### Notes to the accounts (cont'd) - 31 December 2022

#### 9 Other Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowments Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment properties expenses	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0

#### 10 Fixed Assets

The congregation owns the Church premises situated at 99 - 101 Monkstown Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim BT37 0LG, the Manse occupied by our Minister and his family situated at 67 Mount Pleasant Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 0NQ and the associated fixtures, fittings, plant and machinery. These have a combined insurance value of £3,435,100 at last renewal date of 31 October 2022.

#### 11 Investments

The congregation has the following investments. Amounts are shown at market valuation

	2022	2021
	£	£
General Investment Fund at market valuation	0	0
Property		
Other investments	0	0

**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Annual report

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**ABBEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONKSTOWN**

**CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104321)**

**ABBAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONKSTOWN CONGREGATION OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND**

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## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The church building is located at 99-101 Monkstown Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 0LG. Abbey Presbyterian Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland with registration number NIC104321.

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were:

Alan Carson

Thelma Coffey

Tony Hacking

Deborah McKelvey

Geoffrey Marks

Douglas Ross

Anne Greer

Fiona Cochrane

Jonathan Harkness

Joanne Stewart

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister: Alan Carson

Clerk of Session: Deborah McKelvey

Treasurer: Vacancy

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Name: Roy Eakin

Address: 18, Farm Lodge Road, Upper Road, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, BT38 8XH

**BANKERS**

Ulster bank

The Co-operative bank

## **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

### The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held 7 times each year or as appropriate.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

### Presbytery

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- As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord s Supper. The congregation has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Groups
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Bowling Club
- Girls Brigade
- Boys Brigade
- Presbyterian Women
- Coffee morning weekly with lunch also weekly
- Women and Men s Ministries

During 2022 Sunday worship continued each week with organisations resuming a full programme following the Covid 19 pandemic.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### Worship and prayer

The congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11am. On alternate Wednesdays there is a gathering together for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at a service of Thanksgiving. We gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

### Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister, pastoral assistant, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

### Mission and outreach

Session members are responsible for Local Mission and Overseas Mission and have formed very active sub-groups. We also have Men and Women's Ministries who arrange special programmes which are advertised and congregation members give personal invitations to family, friends and neighbours. The congregation supports a local foodbank.

The Local Mission Committee launched 2 new initiatives during 2022, Wednesday morning coffee gatherings offering tea/coffee, scones and a chat to anyone who wished to come along. A Friday lunch gathering was also started, people can come together for soup and fellowship, both the lunch and coffee mornings are open to all across church and community, the lunch is supported by the local Tesco store who donate bread for us to enjoy on these occasions.

The appointment of a Community Evangelist during 2022, Michaela Tuccillo, has assisted the congregation in reaching beyond the church building to those in the local community with many links being formed across the area. The congregation have worked alongside this staff member to visit door to door, befriend and welcome new people to the church, we have welcomed a few new members following the relationships built by Michaela as she gets alongside people within the community.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for

mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assist with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to special appeals.

### Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and / or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

### General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

## **Organisations**

### **Sunday**

Creche meets during the morning church service for pre-school children to attend with a rota of volunteers. There is a wide range of age appropriate toys for them to play with.

Sunday School/Children's Church meets during the church service with identified leaders and Sunday School teachers. The children are primary school age and engage in bible stories and activities.

The young people meet during one service per month, this is preceded by a youth breakfast. There are also outings planned for the young people e.g. ice hockey with all being welcome to attend.

Drop In meets on a Sunday evening for periods across the year. This meeting is held for the local teenagers some of whom used to gather around the church building on a Sunday evening. These

young people are largely unchurched, coming into the building is a new experience for most of them. Activities include football, pool, baking and there is a very willing team of helpers led by Michaela Tuccillo who are available to chat with those who attend. An epilogue at the close of the evening takes place with those wanting to stay for this remaining to hear something of the love God has for them.

### **Monday**

Indoor Bowling meets during the winter months. The team in Abbey participated in various competitions.

In the summer, there is a ladies walking group on Monday evenings followed by refreshment and an epilogue.

### **Tuesday**

Girls Brigade (GB) caters for children between the ages of 3 and 18. Badgework and the GB scripture course were amongst activities.

### **Wednesday**

Coffee morning as described earlier.

Presbyterian Women s (PW) is a fellowship for the ladies in Abbey, to support the work of missionaries overseas, and deaconesses in Ireland, while also trying to reach the women on our doorstep. With these objectives in mind, monthly meetings were planned with speakers that would interest the ladies and to hear from those that Abbey PW supported. Abbey PW supports financially and prayerfully the work of missionaries and weaknesses as well as worthy charities and also gives generously to the work of mission in Abbey and the running costs of the church.

### **Thursday**

Abbey Tots, Mother and Toddler group, catered for toddlers and their parents/grandparents/childminders. There is a range of activities including ride on toys, soft play area for babies, shop, kitchen, cars, trains, books, carpentry, dolls house, dolls and prams, slide, seesaw and table top activities. There is an optional time for singing and playing usual

activities. A team of caterers serves tea, coffee, toast, fruit and drinks.

Boys Brigade (BB) had some interesting badgework classes including cooking and baking, awareness of environmental issues. The boys are divided into Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section.

### **Friday**

Lunch meetings as outlined earlier.

### **Community**

A local youth football team use the Sports Hall. Abbey Community College also uses the Sports Hall on a regular basis. The buildings have been used by THRIVE and also the local Boxing club when needed.

### **Men's Ministry.**

A few varied activities are planned as part of the ministry and outreach to men. Food is always involved. Our hope and prayer is that through these events relationships may continue to be built up or new ones established and more outsiders be drawn in to meet others and hear about how to meet Jesus.

### **Volunteers**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching.

In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits.

The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the

Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation s main source of income is members contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering.

The income and expenses of the Abbey and its organisations are reflected in the financial statements.

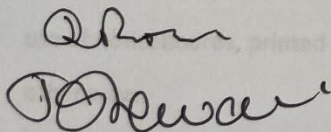
## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregations total income does not exceed 250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 20th November 2023 and signed on its behalf by



**Abbey Monkstown Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104321

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Abbey Monkstown Presbyterian Church**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: ... Roy Eakin  
Occupation ... Retired Bank Official  
Address: ... 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland  
... Carrickfergus, Co Antrim BT38 8XH  
Date: ... 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023